

## **Over The River**

*DES 10-37*

### **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

#### **RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Royal Gorge Field Office (Lead Federal Agency)  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources (Cooperating Agency)  
Colorado Department of Transportation (Cooperating Agency)  
Colorado State Patrol (Cooperating Agency)  
Chaffee County (Cooperating Agency)  
Fremont County (Cooperating Agency)

#### **ABSTRACT**

The Artists, Christo and Jeanne-Claude, propose to install a temporary work of art consisting of fabric panels suspended horizontally over approximately 5.9 miles of a 42.4-mile stretch of the Arkansas River between Cañon City and Salida, Colorado. The work of art, known as Over The River™ (OTR), would require the use of federal, private, and state lands adjacent to the river. The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) administers the federal lands within the proposed Project Area.

Over The River Corporation (OTR Corp or applicant) has applied for a land use authorization with the BLM RGFO for a three-year period to install, exhibit, and remove the work of art on public lands in western Fremont County and the southeast portion of Chaffee County, Colorado. The BLM RGFO is the lead federal agency and has the final authority of determining whether, and under what terms and conditions, a BLM land use permit would be issued to the project applicant for Over The River™.

The BLM RGFO has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.; Public Law [PL] 91-190) to analyze the Artists' proposal, define a range of reasonable alternatives, and disclose the project's potential environmental impacts. This EIS has been prepared consistent with the requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations on implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508) to enable informed decision-making.

#### **DEADLINE FOR DRAFT EIS COMMENTS**

Public comments on the Draft EIS must be received at the address provided below no later than:  
**August 30, 2010**

For further information or to comment on the DEIS, contact:  
Vince Hooper, Project Manager  
Royal Gorge Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
3028 East Main Street  
Cañon City, CO 81212  
email: Vincent\_hooper@blm.gov  
phone: 719-269-8555